

DISASTER TAKES 32,069 LIVES

During The Months of 1905.

In September, to take toll in exactly the same figures June had written, merely reversing the two final digits.

With its losses classified under general headings, this is the reading of 1905's roll:

Earthquakes	15,004
Wind and storm	11,789
Maritime	1,493
Floods	860
Mine accidents	860
Explosions	328
Railroad accidents	266
Extreme heat and cold	266
Fire	266
"The Glorious Fourth"	136
Collapsed buildings	136
Land and snow slides	136
Skating and swimming accidents	136
Trolley accidents	136
Asphyxiations	136
Totals	32,069

The three final items emphasize the necessary incompleteness of any such record as this. It can be approximately accurate, but conditions imposed by the insufficiency of record in many cases where the loss of life has amounted to only one or two, necessitates that the line be drawn somewhere. As has been said, no items have been included where less than five lives have been lost, though the aggregate of those omitted, could they all be gathered, would swell the total far beyond its present size. Instances emphatically indicative of the large figures soon rolled up by what are, comparatively speaking, "little" disasters, are to be found in such facts as that pedestrians are killed in New York city at the rate of one a day; that the fatalities among sea-going men are estimated at six a day, or that the deaths due to mountain climbing amounted during 1904 to 302. It does not need the nineteen entries which 1905 has written across her necrology against the sport of football to show that even so dreadful a record as that which follows might readily become more terrible, were all these other figures available at this time.

Below is the year's full list, giving the exact dates of the mishappenings, as well as the number of fatalities accruing from each.

JANUARY.

1-Bark Marpesia blown up at sea	11
2-Fire, Morris Run, Pa.	9
3-Extreme cold in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania	9
4-Boiler explosion towboat Defender, Ohio River	9
5-Cold and wind along south shore of the Baltic	9
6-Railway collision near Ripon, New Mexico	9
7-Fire, New York city	9
8-Cold and storm through England	9
9-Mine explosion, St. Helens, England	9
10-Avalanche, above Bergen, Norway	9
11-Railway collision near Barnsley, England	9
12-Drowned while skating, Ellesmere, England	9

1-Severe storm off the coast of Iceland	16
2-Explosion in New York city	16
3-Cyclone across Madagascar	16
4-Earthquakes in British India (3 main centers)	14,428
5-Mine-gas explosion, Zeigler, Ill.	8
6-Railroad collision, near Harbin, Manchuria	8
7-Reservoir collapse, Madrid, Spain	179
8-Quarry explosion, near Allison, Va.	7
9-Sinking of the Hudson river, near Poughkeepsie, N. Y.	7
10-Collapse of crane, Pullott Mills, St. Petersburg	11
11-Powder mills explosion, near Prato, Italy	5
12-Railway collision, near Genoa, Italy	11
13-"False alarm" stampede, Masonic Temple, Indianapolis	5
14-Residence fire, Ste. Anne de Pocatiere, Canada	7
15-Sailing boat capsized off Donegal coast	12
16-Sinking in mid-Atlantic of steamer Mars	21
17-Burning of Ste. Genevieve convent, near Montreal, Canada	15
18-Powder explosion, Flat Gap, Ky.	5
19-Mine asphyxiation, Bradbrook, Pa.	10
20-Collision of steamer Racine and unknown schooner, Bristol Channel	10
21-Earthquake at Bender Abbas, Persia	48
22-Falling mine cage, Wilkesbarre, Pa.	19
23-Collision of steamer Racine and unknown schooner, Bristol Channel	10
24-Tornado over Laredo and New Laredo, Tex.	12
25-Mine explosion, near Wilburton, Oklahoma	13
Total	15,017

APRIL.

1-Residence fire, Market Drayton, England	5
2-Drowning in the River Mersey, Warrington, England	5
3-Sinking of barge Moonbeam off Point Judith	5
4-Storm at Owl, Indian Territory	8
5-Drowning at Glasgow, Scotland	28
6-Casualty in and near Marquette, Kansas	23
7-Collision and explosion on the P. R. R. near Harrisburg	194
8-Snyder, Oklahoma, demolished by tornado	194
9-Sinking of steamer Sabalaus off Port Arthur	22
10-Mine explosion, Resze, Hungary	22
11-Gas explosion, Point Breeze, Philadelphia	6
12-Storm across Province of Seathur, Hungary	6
13-Mine fire, Lanarkshire, England	6
14-Wind and rain storm, northern Texas	6
15-Drowning accident, Rio Honda river, near Roswell, N. M.	17
16-Collision of steamer Racine and unknown schooner, Bristol Channel	10
17-Railroad wreck near Losavaya, Russia	9
18-Foundering of French fishing schooner near St. Servan	128
19-Chilean cruiser foundered near Gulf of Anad (Presidente Pinto)	18
20-Mine cave-in near Montrose, Colorado	5
Total	432

MAY.

1-Residence fire, Market Drayton, England	5
2-Drowning in the River Mersey, Warrington, England	5
3-Sinking of barge Moonbeam off Point Judith	5
4-Storm at Owl, Indian Territory	8
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JUNE.

1-Earthquake at Scutari, Albania	94
2-Steamer H. M. Carter collided with bridge pier, Alexandria, La.	189
3-Bursting of reservoir at Pinetown, Natal	479
4-Wind and rain storm across Natal	479
5-Earthquake in Hiroshima Province, Japan	22
6-Dynamite explosion, convict camp near Ojuz, Afghanistan	22
7-Collision of tug and pleasure boat, Budapest, Hungary	7
8-Electrical storm in the "thumb" district of Michigan	21
9-Sinking of British submarine "A5" in Plymouth Sound	21
10-Dead from celebration results, Lake Como	21
11-Explosion of six-inch shell aboard H. M. S. Magnificent	11
12-Drowning accident off Barneto's Point, Long Island Sound	11
13-Cloudburst, Province of Seathur, Hungary	6
14-Railway collision near Patasco, Maryland	23
15-Cane upset near Hagleton, British Columbia	23
16-Mine explosion, Kharlsk, Russia	21
17-Wreck of Lake Shore flyer near Mentor, Ohio	21
18-Boiler explosion, Attala, Alabama	5
19-Dynamite explosion near Emporium, Pa.	5
20-Capsize of ferry, River Minho, Spain	5
21-Schooner George Stago rammed by steamer Anaconda, Copenhagen	22
22-Collision of train and trolley near Baltimore	10
23-Tornado over Phillipsburg, Kansas	10
24-Hurricane across the Marshall Islands	102
Total	1,336

JULY.

1-Capsize of sailboat, Dublin Bay	6
2-Tenement fire, Williamsburg, New York	6
3-Extreme heat in southern Germany	479
4-Cloudburst, Guanajuato, Mexico	479
5-Naphtha explosion and fire, Rome, Italy	6
6-Steam pipe explosion on steamer Johannesburg	182
7-Dead from celebration results, New York City	182
8-Wind storm, Milan, Italy	17
9-Tornado over Montague and Nacoga, Texas	17
10-Sinking of lifeboat of Tropic, near Constitution, Chile	17
11-Sinking of French submarine, Bizet Bay	18
12-Mine explosion, Seagriffs, Pennsylvania	5
13-Swamping of battery, Little Falls Dam, Wis.	14
14-Mine explosion, Antwerp, Belgium	14
15-Powder explosion, P. R. R. yards, Harrisburg, Pa.	8
16-Drowning accident, Blackpool, London, England	8
17-Collision, steamer Grinnon and a barge near Kazan, Russia	6
18-Mine explosion, Rondida Hill, Wattstown, Wales	119
19-Mine fire, Dortmund, Germany	20
20-Lighting from clear sky, Arzberg, Saxe	5
21-Building collapse, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada	5
22-Freight collision, near Upton, Ind.	5
23-Extreme heat, London and Paris	16
24-Collapse of chapel roof, Vermion, Ohio	16
25-Mine cave-in, St. Helena, Wales	16
26-Extreme heat, New York city and vicinity	16
27-Explosion on H. M. S. Implacable	64
28-Sinking of naphtha launch, near Ponds Creek, Md.	5
29-Fire, Humble oil fields, near Houston, Texas	5
30-Tornado over Phillipsburg, Kansas	10
31-Residence fire, Woolaston, England	5

SEPTEMBER.

1-Bursting of flywheel, McKeesport, Pa.	5
2-Railway wreck, at Witham, England	10
3-Capsize of ferryboat, Morecambe Bay, England	6
4-Wreck of schooner Pearl, off Alaskan coast	24
5-Typhoon over Tonquin Delta, China	2,993
6-Storm over Lake Superior	43
7-Fire in foreign quarters of Adrianople, Turkey	18
8-Capsize of pleasure boat, Boulogne harbor	7
9-Earthquake, Calabria, Italy	409
10-Landslide, Havre, France	5
11-Explosion of Rand Mills, Connelville, Pa.	19
12-Trolley car collision, near York, Pa.	5
13-Collision of tug and pleasure boat, Budapest, Hungary	7
14-Wreck of steamer Nenazla, off coast of Judland	11
15-Fire and explosion, Japanese flagship, Mikasa, Tokyo	256
16-Wreck on elevated road, New York City	12
17-Lighting stroke, Warren county fair, Indiana, La.	5
18-Typhoon over Korea	43
19-Celluloid factory fire, Czenstokowa, Russia	9
20-Cloudburst and wind, Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas	12
21-Explosion and fire in fuse works, Avon, Conn.	13
22-Boiler explosion, Pinconning, Mich.	5
23-Wreck of trawler Lincoln, off the Orkneys	5
24-Landslip on Mt. San Paolino, Sicily	16
25-Railway collision, Mt. Holly Springs, Pa.	5
26-Fire, Jacksonville, Fla.	5
27-Railway collision, 2nd Station, Pa.	9
28-Fireworks explosion, Green Point, N. Y.	5
29-Wind storm, near Capua, Italy	6
30-Typhoon over the Philippine Islands	123
31-Typhoon and tidal wave, Marshall Islands	120
32-Cyclone over Malmesbury, Cape town, Africa	6
33-Steamer Leho strikes floating mine, near Shantung light	15
34-Collision of steamers Njord and Robert, near Hveen, Finland	20
35-Fire in sailors' tenement, New York city	5
Total	11,562

OCTOBER.

1-Quarry cave-in, near Troy, N. Y.	8
2-Building collapse, St. Petersburg	21
3-Wreck of schooner Van Name and King, off South Carolina	6
4-Gale off the coast of Japan	20
5-Railway wreck, near Rostoff-on-Don, Russia	27
6-Pleasure boat capsized, Garrancon Bay, Ireland	5
7-Tidal wave striking Campania	5
8-Collision steamers Ruby and Prudhoe Castle, Firth of Forth	7

Three Hundred and Thirty-three People Were Killed in Railroad Accidents.

Taking No Account of War's Frightful Carnage, and Including Only the Happenings Which Have Brought at Least Five Deaths, the Total Shows Average Daily Fatalities of Nearly Eighty-eight.

When 1905 takes its place in history, it will figure not only as the year of Mukden and Portsmouth—of war and peace. It must also claim attention on the scroll of recorded fact because of its appalling record of disaster. Nineteen four had brought violent death to 6,141; the toll demanded by 1903 had been 8,625—but the twelve-month just dead went far beyond either of these with a frightful total of 32,069.

This includes no accident, however tragic, which brought not at least five deaths in its train. It takes no account of the ravages of war—not of that Mukden which dwarfed 300 such holocausts as that of the Iroquois Theater, nor of those Russian massacres which have counted their victims by the thousands. Merely the "usual" fatal happenings of a busy world have shown in one short year an average loss of 2,672 lives a month—617 a week—nearly eighty-eight a day!

Death at the Threshold.

Ill omen stood at 1905's very threshold. On January 1, the barque

April 3-Earthquakes in Southern British India	14,428
September 2-Typhoon over the Tonquin Delta, China	2,993
June 2-Wind and rain storm over Natal	479
July 2-Cloudburst above Guanajuato, Mexico	479
September 7-Earthquake in Calabria, Italy	409
August 7-Hurricane off Goto Isle, Korea Channel	295
June 18-Mine explosion at Kharlsk, Russia	21
September 11-Fire and explosion on the Mikasa	256
September 23-Typhoon over the Philippine Islands	123
April 8-Reservoir collapse, Madrid, Spain	179
June 2-Reservoir collapse, Pinetown, Natal	128
May 23-Fishing boat foundered off St. Servan	128
November 19-Wreck of Hilda off St. Malo	123
September 28-Typhoon and tidal wave, Marshall Islands	120
February 30-Mine explosion at Birmingham, Ala.	111
May 11-Snyder (Okla.) destroyed by a tornado	101
June 24-Hurricane across the Marshall Islands	102

Was it not more than just "odd" that the storms over Natal and Mexico should each have claimed exactly the same number of victims? Also, that they should have befallen one on the 2d of one month, and the other on the same date of the month

Marpesia was blown up at sea, bringing eleven fatalities to form the first item in that longest list of the year's disasters. For maritime accidents have since New Year Day numbered sixty-three, with 1,493 deaths, though it is to be added that this sort of disaster, usually the heaviest which any twelve-month has to show, has in 1905 been surpassed in mortalities by both earthquake and storm.

This rearrangement of the customary table is due solely to the two most terrible of the cycle's tragedies. The September typhoon, which swept across the densely populated Tonquin Delta, China, snatching away within seven of 10,000 lives, was had enough, but the earthquake which visited British India in April was infinitely worse.

27,906 in Sixteen Days.

Only three times within a century has the world known a tremor worse in its appalling results. St. Pierre (1902) claimed 30,000; Peru and Ecuador in 1863 saw 25,000 dead, and in 1822 Aleppo lost 20,000. But, barring only these, the disaster which centered about Mysore and Lahore and Missouri on April 3, with the death list totaling at 14,428, was the worst visitation of the sort since the medieval days of exaggerated figures.

These two, then, contributed mainly to that fearful sum which 1905 has seen built up, but read the fifteen items which follow them on the disaster roster. Human life is, indeed, "of uncertain certainty."

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following? That Pinetown's reservoir should have burst the day of Natal's typhoon was, of course, result rather than coincidence—but it was not result which brought a second storm to the Marshall Islands

Mine Accidents Resulted in 909 Deaths.

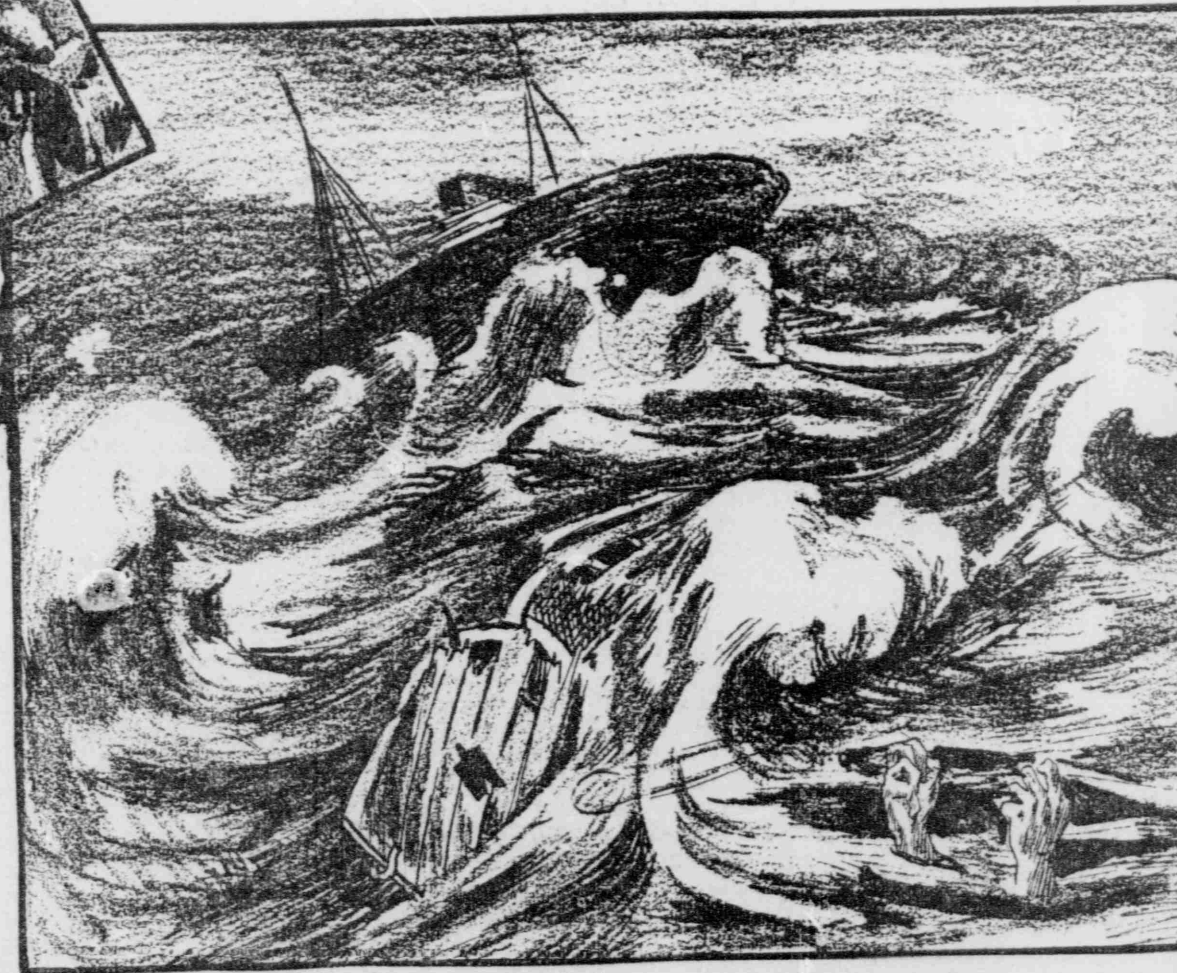
1-Drowned while skating, Grimsby, England	7
2-Earthquake in Thessaly	9
3-Mine explosion, Gowerton, England	9
4-Railway collision, Shawnee, Tenn.	9
5-Extreme cold through Conn., New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania	37
6-Sinking of a junk of the Miao-Tao Islands	37
Total	309

FEBRUARY.

1-Sleigh struck by train, Hornellsville, N. Y.	11
2-Wreck of oyster boat, Cambridge, Md.	6
3-Dynamite explosion in Calumet (Mich.) mine	7
4-Railroad wreck on Mexican National road, near Cameros	17
5-Steamer Natoriagawa sunk in Osaka harbor	17
6-Wreck of schooner Charles Wilbur, off Bermuda	111
7-Fire, Hot Springs, Ark.	51
8-Mine explosion, Wilcox, Va.	13
9-Collapse of church floor, Brooklyn, N. Y.	13
Total	437

MARCH.

1-Avalanche above Quesaravillgrafen, Switzerland	6
2-Fall of mine cage, Clear Springs, Pa.	7
3-Collision, Cleveland and Pittsburg road, near Clinton, Pa.	11
4-Sinking of tug Marathon in the Irish sea	11
5-Parting of mine cable near Charleston, W. Va.	101
6-Mine explosion, Clydach Vale, South Wales	101
7-Capsize of fishing boat off Belhelvie, England	101
8-Tenement fire, New York city	19
9-Storm along Irish and English coasts	19
10-Sinking at sea of schooner Pearl	19
11-Mine explosion, Bush Run, W. Va.	24
12-Collapse of Lyric Theater, Santiago de Chile	46
13-Fire and explosion, shoe factory, Brockton, Mass.	58
14-Powder explosion, Princeton, Ind.	28
15-Capsize of pleasure craft near Rockledge, Fla.	5
16-Landslide at Semlin, Hungary	8
Total	287



Maritime Accidents Have Cost 1493 Lives.

27-Railway collision, Lancashire and Yorkshire road, England	23
28-Lighting storm over New York city	6
31-Premature submarine mine explosion, Helsingfors, Finland	13
Total	1,395

AUGUST.

1-Earthquake at Kalu and Mandi, British India	19
2-Landslip at Spencesbridge, Vancouver	19
3-Pittsburg Flyer strikes trolley car near Cleveland	11
4-Railway collision, near Spennberg, Germany	21
5-Collapse of department store, Albany, N. Y.	10
6-Foundering at sea of bark Hudson Hill	12
7-Railway wreck, near Norfolk, Va.	12
8-Dynamite explosion near Lurbin, W. Va.	12
9-Quarry wall slip, Arned, Pennsylvania	12
10-Load burst over Berwind and Tobacc, Colo.	12
11-Collision of freight train and trolley car, near Butte	12
12-Collision in inland sea of Steamers Heralding and Kinjamaru	46
13-Dynamite explosion at Manzanillo, Mexico	50
14-Hurricane off Goto Island, Korea Channel	29
15-Sinking of steamer Peconic, off Florida coast	29
16-Dynamite explosion, near Safe Harbor, Pennsylvania	5
Total	605

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